A brief

NARRATIVE

How Things were carried at the beginning

OF THE

TROUBLES in the Year 1641.

IN

IRELAND.

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A brief Narrative how things were carried at the beginning of the Rebellion in Ireland.

THe punishment was severe, but just, which the Scripture mentions to have been inflicted upon that ingrateful man, who being himself freed from the payment of vaste Summes, would for a small Debt imprison his fellow Servant; Now by what warrant such as with bitterness express their aversion to the Catholiques of *Ireland* can justifie their contempt of this principle of Christianity, is a question the world may well ask, but will never be resolved: However, we have so great a sense of the mercy extended to us, as we shall in observance of his Royal pleasure, to whom we owe it, forbear to raise their crimes in judgement against them; and without endeavouring to extenuate our own offences by comparison, we do heartily wish for the honour of the age we live in, that no History might conveigh the memory of theirs to posterity. But although we decline that manner of defence, we may not by our silence betray our Countrey, and our Cause; nor suffer those whose Charity is confin'd within the bounds of their Interests, with fictions and invectives to raise the apprehensions of men to such a degree of horrour against us, as that a Roman Catholick and an Irishman should pass for a Monster in nature; nor may we suffer those who (not content to have been prodigal in the Blood and Treasure of *England* in favour of such

Crimes as we forbear to name, and who have oppreſt and baniſht thoſe from their Countrey that ſtrove to aſſert Monarchy, and the Rights of their Sovereign) do endeavour to make us a reproach to mankinde. But now the torrent of their Iniquities having ſpent it ſelf, and the times growing more calm, we with more freedom and greater expectation of finding Patronage for a juſt cauſe, come to ſpeak in the firſt place to the Engliſh Nation, whom time and the overacting of our Adverſaries, have in ſome meaſure undeceived. They therefore and the whole world may be pleaſed to know, that we are ſo far from juſtifying any horrid actions perpetrated at that time, when but a few of any quality raiſed a Rebellion in the North, as we have and ſtill make it our requeſt, that thoſe crimes, and all Maſſacres and Murthers then, or after committed, who ever ſhall be found guilty of them be puniſhed; yet we may not omit (although no Motive whatſoever could juſtifie their undertakings) to Repreſent, that before they fell from their Obedience to the Government, that Sir *William Parſons*, one of the Lords Juſtices that ſupplied the Deputies place, at a publick Entertainment before many witneſſes did poſitively declare, That within a twelve moneth no Catholique ſhould be ſeen in *Ireland*; many hands were ſought, and thouſands were found to ſubſcribe a Petition tending to the introducing of a ſevere perſecution againſt Catholicks, who were the far greater Number of the Inhabitants of *Ireland*: And that the menace of an Invaſion by a Scottiſh Army of which men at that time did frequently diſcourſe, bred frightful apprehenſions, ſo as theſe and other grounds of ſuſpicion being improved by ſuch among them, whoſe particular Intereſts could be moſt favoured, and better advanced in unquiet times, laid the foundation of that Rebellion; but even theſe men and at that time when the Lords Juſtices did not appear to be prepared for reſiſtance, by their Remonſtrance humbly begged their Grievances might be redreſſed by advice of the two Houſes of Parliament then met at *Dublin*; but the Lords Juſtices who by their words

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and actions not onely expreſſed their unwillingneſs to ſtop the farther growth of thoſe diſtempers, but meant to encreaſe them (were often heard to wiſh that the Number were greater of ſuch as became criminal) by prorroguing the Parliament, made them deſperate; however the Nation by their Repreſentatives in the two dayes which were onely allowed them to ſit, husbanded their time ſo, as to leave to poſterity a monument of their averſion to ſuch attempts, by declaring that thoſe men had *Traiterouſly and Rebelliouſly taken Arms*, & offering to employ their Lives and Fortunes in reducing them to their obedience, if they might be permitted to ſit; but this was denied them, and by a ſtrange change from the Ancient Form of Government, a Parliament then ſitting was prorogued; whereas our Anceſtors upon a far leſs occaſion then quieting of ſo high diſtempers, were uſually called upon to aſſiſt the King with their advice. To this may be added, that the Marquels of *Ormond* propoſed at Councel Board the raiſing of five thouſand men in the ſpace of three weeks, if he might be authorized ſo to do; with which ſtrength he undertook to diſſipate thoſe then weak beginnings of the enſuing miſchiefs, and to prevent their further growth, but was refuſed it, ſo as thus far we may obſerve who they were that widened the wound, inſtead of ſtanching the blood.

This foundation being thus laid, that which at firſt was but a ſpark, and might be eaſily quenched, began to flame, and freedom of rapine having ſuddenly drawn Numbers of men together, the unrepreſt Conſpirators became a formidable Army, and beſieged *Tredath*, paſſing the River of *Boyne*, which was the Rubicon of the Pale, and had in all former Rebellions been maintained with their blood by thoſe antient Engliſh Colonies Planted there; now it was that the times began to favour the deſigns of the Lord Juſtices, and their party in the Counſel, which was as forward as they to foment the diſtractions; for the *Ulſter* Army lying in the bowels of the Countrey, the Forces being not yet come out of *England*, and the Natives themſelves both unarm'd and diſtruſted by the

Sir *Adam Loftus*, Sir *John Temple*, &c.

the State, they were forced at firſt by their regular Contribution to prevent the deſolation which would have followed their refuſal to ſupply them. Hereupon ſuch Contributors began to be looked upon and Characſtered as men fallen from the Government, and a party that was ſent from *Dublin* having killed at *Santry* (but three miles diſtant from thence) ſome innocent Husbandmen, (among whom there were two Proteſtants) and carried their heads as in Triumph to the City, the Neighbour Inhabitants Allarum'd thereat, had recourſe to ſuch weapons as firſt came to hand, and gathered in a Body: Whereupon the Lords Juſtices ſet forth a Proclamation in nature of a ſafe Conduct, by which theſe ſo in Arms, and Mr. *King* of *Clontarffe* by ſpeciall name had five dayes reſpite to come in and preſent their Grievances; but before three nights of the time prefixt were expired, Mr. *Kings* houſe was pillaged and burnt by direction of the Lords Juſtices. Not long after Supplies being arrived out of *England*, and the Siege of *Tredath* raiſed, and conſequently the force removed, which neceſſitated the Inhabitants to Comply with the Ulſter Army, the Nobility and Gentry of the Pale prevailed with Sir *John Read*, his Majeſties ſworn Servant, (a ſtranger to the Countrey, unengaged, and an eye witneſs of their proceedings, then upon his Journey into *England*) to take the pains to preſent their Remonſtrance to our late King of ever bleſſed Memory, and to beg pardon for what they were thus compelled to act; but he poor Gentleman coming to *Dublyn*, was apprehended, and not concealing the meſſage entruſted with him, was put to the Rack, the moſt part of the queſtions which were then asked him in that torment, being no other then ſuch as might lead him to accuſe the King and Queen to be Authours and Fomenters of that Rebellion. Moreover, the two Houſes of Parliament in *England* having for *the better Inducing the Rebels to repent of their wicked attempts, commended to the Lords Juſtices according to the power granted them in that behalf; to beſtow His Majeſties Gracious Pardon to all ſuch as within a convenient time, &c. ſhould re-*

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turn to their Obedience. The Lords Juſtices, (notwithſtanding ſuch Order, and His Majeſties Gracious Pleaſure ſignified to that effect) by their Proclamation dated in *November*, 1641. limited ſuch His Majeſties and the Parliamens of *England* their favourable and generall Intentions, to the Inhabitants of a few Counties, provided alwayes they were no *Free-holders*, and afforded them no longer time then *ten dayes*, after the Proclamation to receive benefit thereby; but notwithſtanding theſe Reſtrictions, the Lord of *Donſany*, Sir *John Nettervill*, *Patrick Barnewall* of *Kilbrue*, and many others who had notice of His Majeſties Gracious Inclination towards the Nation, and the Parliament of *Englands* Order in favour of them, ſubmitted to the Lord Marqueſs of *Ormond*, then Lieutenant General of His Majeſties Army, who recommeded them to the Lords Juſtices, intimating that the good uſage to be extended to them would have an influence on many others, and be a great motive to quiet the diſtempers which then began to ſpread; but the Lords Juſtices, whoſe deſign was not to be carried on by Mercy and Indulgence, to prevent Submiſſions, Impriſoned and Indicted by a Jury, which did not conſiſt of Free-holders, thoſe ſo ſubmitting, and put the ſaid Mr. *Barnewall* (of the age of ſixty ſix years) to the torture of the Rack: This notwithſtanding, the Noblemen and Gentry inhabiting the Countrey next to *Dublin* applied themſelves humbly by their Letter to the Lords Juſtices, which when the Earl of *Caſtle-haven*, a Nobleman of Engliſh Birth, who freely before that time had acceſs to *Dublin*, came to preſent, he was made Priſoner: Wherefore when the Nation obſerved, that their advice in Parliament was not onely thought unneceſſary, but themſelves involved in a general diſtruſt.

That neither the Parliament nor the Marqueſs of *Ormonds* Offer to ſuppreſſe the Rebellion, would be accepted.

That the enforced complying of the Nobility and Gentry of the Pale, with a powerfull Army, which was

Maſter of their Lives and Fortunes; was imputed to them as a malicious averſion to the Engliſh Government.

That the blood of innocent Husbandmen was drawn, and the Heads of men were grown an acceptable Spectacle at *Dublin*.

That Publick Faith was broken, and mens Houſes (particularly enabled to claim benefit by it) Pillaged and Burnt.

That all wayes were obſtructed by which they might implore His Majeſties mercy, and repreſent their Conditions.

That the favourable Intentions of the Parliament of *England*, and his Majeſties Gracious Pardon, which was meant ſhould extend to all, ſave ſuch as were guilty of Blood, was ſo limited by them, as no *Eſtated man* could receive benefit by it.

That theſe who, notwithſtanding their Reſtrictions, caſt themſelves freely upon His Majeſties Mercy, were impriſoned, Indicted, and ſome of them Rackt.

That the Earl of *Caſtle-haven* might have found it a capital Crime to mediate in their behalf, if he had not made his eſcape after twenty weeks Impriſonment.

That the Kings ſworn Servant was rackt, and that his Miniſters, whoſe duty it was to have been jealous of the honour of their Maſter, endeavoured to aſperſe it, and to render him and his Royal Conſort odious to his people, by ſtriving to extort from a tortured man, ſome teſtimony by which they might be accuſed of raiſing and fomenting that Rebellion; when theſe and many other Arguments of this kinde, which (leaſt we ſhould be too prolix) we omit, had convinced the Catholiques of *Ireland*, that the Lords Juſtices, and that part of the Councel which adhered to them, became unfaithful to his Majeſty, and had deſigned the Ruine of that Nation, and the extirpation of their Religion.

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That Law which moves the hand by interposing it self to bear off a stroak aimed at the head, convened an Assembly, of these who were exposed to those so eminent dangers, in which they modelled a Government in order to their natural defence, obliging themselves by such an Oath to His Majesty his Heirs and Successors, as well shewed their affection to the Crown, and their unalterable resolutions to maintain His Majesties Rights, and to follow his fortune. Between these thus divided Governments, there have been Battels fought, Cities and Forts Besieged, and much Christian blood spilt, which will one day lye at some mens doors; and who those are, the Eternal Wisdom best knows, and the Reader is left free to determine.

The Protestants and English Armies that were under Command, and instrumental in this work (particular mens Cruelties laid aside) are not to be blamed; and even those, that going abroad upon parties have asked Sir *William Parsons*, if they were to kill Women and Children, and received answer, that none of the Irish that were grown to be a span long were to be spared, may pretend to an excuse; but to whom shall the Authours of those bloody Orders transferre their guilt? Would to God the venome of some particular mens malice to our Nation had lost its force, or dyed with them, but there are a few, and but a few left that are implacable, those have the Conscience (in the presence of God) to feign any thing that may render us odious, and the face (in the sight of men) to offer at procuring credit for their Fictions.

These men amuse the world with the noise of Irish Barbarous Cruelties, but are far from doing us the Justice to let men know, that we are as desirous as they to see the Cruelties of all sides punisht.

These men fill the ears of the people with their tenderness of the English Intereſt in *Ireland*, but conceal from them, that they themselves would destroy those who had their descent from *England*, and whose Ancestors did ever

ſupport the Kingly Intereſt in that Nation; they take it ill that we ſhould ſay that the Tyrant and Paricide *Cromwell*, againſt whom we fought, (and by whom we were baniſht) did us wrong, or that we ſhould expect that our lawfull Sovereign *Charles* the Second, (whoſe Rights we ſtrove to aſſert with the loſs of our Lives and Fortune) ſhould do us right, and reſtore us. Thoſe who cannot pretend to impeccability, would yet have us to be put to plead our Innocence; and like men that did repine at the ſuns ſhining every where, would appropriate His Majeſties Beams of mercy to themſelves: Why then being ſo few as they are, do they not rather imitate the more innocent and far more numerous part of the Proteſtants of *Ireland*, who ſuffered with us, and having buried all former differences, pitty our Sufferings, and praiſe our ſucceſsleſs attempts at home in behalf of our Sovereign, and applaud our conſtant adhering to his Fortune abroad, that ſo laying aſide all the ſeeds of Diſſention we may in the firſt place joyntly pay our Vows to Heaven for ſo miraculous a deliverance, and never hereafter contend but in ſerving our common Father, our Gracious Sovereign, whom God preſerve to Reign long and happily over us.

Thus we have given you in little the imperfect face of our promiſed Juſtification; but now take from the words of a dying man, of a King, and our late Sovereign of ever bleſſed memory, a Judgement in the Caſe in the twelfth Chapter of ΕΙΚΩΝ ΒΑΣΙΛΙΚΗ.

Upon

Upon the Rebellion and Troubles in IRELAND.

VVho ſayes,

THat next to the ſin of thoſe who began that Rebellion theirs muſt needs be, who either hindered the ſpeedy ſuppreſſing of it by domeſtick diſſentions, or diverted the aids, or exaſperated the Rebels to the moſt deſperate Reſolutions and actions by threatning all extremities not onely to the known Heads, and chief Incendiaries, but even to the whole Community of that Nation, Reſolving to deſtroy Root and Branch, Men, Women, and Children, without any regard of thoſe uſual Pleas for mercy, which Conquerours, not wholly barbarous, are wont to hear from their own Breaſts, in behalf of thoſe whoſe oppreſſive fears rather then their malice, engaged them; or whoſe Imbecility for Sex and Age was ſuch, as they could neither lift up a hand againſt them, nor diſtinguiſh between their right hand and their left: which prepoſterous and (I think) un-Evangelicall Zeal is too like that of the rebuked Diſciples, who would go no lower in their Revenge, then to call for fire from heaven upon whole Cities, for the repulſe or neglect of a few. Or like that of Jacobs *Sons, which the Father both blamed and curſed; chuſing rather to uſe all extremities which might drive men to deſperate obſtinacy, then to apply moderate remedies; ſuch as might puniſh ſome with exemplary Juſtice, yet diſarm others with tenders of mercy upon their ſubmiſſion, and our protection of them from the*

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fury of thoſe, who would ſoon drown them, if they refuſed to ſwim down the popular ſtream with them.

But ſome kinde of Zeal counts all merciful moderation Lukewarmneſs, and had rather be counted cruel then cold; and is not ſeldom more greedy to kill the Bear for his Skin, then for any harm he had done. The Confiſcation of mens Eſtates being more beneficial then the Charity of ſaving their Lives, or Reforming their Errors.

FINIS.